In the claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): A packet switching controller for processing an inbound packet, the packet switching controller comprising:

a first engine for constructing an edit program for the inbound packet in response to a disposition decision for the inbound packet;

a memory for storing the edit program; and

a second engine for executing the edit program to modify the inbound packet and generate an outbound packet, the second engine including a packet input buffer for receiving and for temporarily storing the inbound packet; with the inbound packet being stored in the packet input buffer until the edit program has been constructed for the inbound packet.

Claim 6 (original): The packet switching controller of claim 5 wherein the edit program includes a plurality of instructions, and one or more instructions determine a plurality of data bits to be included in the outbound packet.

Claim 7 (original): The packet switching controller of claim 5 wherein the edit program includes a plurality of instructions, and one or more instructions are for performing at least one operation selected from the group consisting of RECORD, PLAYBACK, COPY, DELETE, INSERT and OVERWRITE operations.

Claim 8 (original): The packet switching controller of claim 5 wherein the edit program includes a plurality of instructions that are executed serially.

Claims 9-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): The packet switching controller of claim 5 wherein the second engine includes a playback buffer for storing data from the inbound packet and for playing back at least a portion of the stored data.

Claim 12 (original): The packet switching controller of claim 5 wherein the second engine includes a packet output buffer, which is used to modify one or more bits of the inbound packet to generate the outbound packet, and to transmit the outbound packet.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method of processing an inbound packet to generate an outbound packet using a real-time constructed edit program, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the inbound packet and temporarily storing the inbound packet

constructing the edit program for the inbound packet in response to a disposition decision for the inbound packet;

storing the inbound packet at least until the edit program has been constructed for the inbound packet;

storing the edit program in a memory; and

modifying the inbound packet by executing the edit program to generate the outbound packet.

Claim 14 (original): The method of processing an inbound packet of claim 13 wherein the step of modifying the inbound packet includes the step of determining a plurality of data bits to be included in the outbound packet.

Claim 15 (original): The method of processing an inbound packet of claim 13 wherein the step of modifying the inbound packet includes the step of performing at least one operation selected from the group consisting of RECORD, PLAYBACK, COPY, DELETE, INSERT and OVERWRITE operations.

Claim 16 (original): The method of processing an inbound packet of claim 13 wherein the step of modifying the inbound packet includes the step of serially executing a plurality of instructions.

Claims 17-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (original): The method of processing an inbound packet of claim 13 further comprising the steps of storing data from the inbound packet and playing back at least a portion of the stored data.

Claim 20 (original): The method of processing an inbound packet of claim 13 wherein the step of modifying the inbound packet includes the step of modifying one or more bits of the inbound packet.

Claims 21-22 (canceled)